

## Letter from Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, January 26, 1877, with transcript

Home, January 26th, 77. (No envelope) My dear Al.,

My only reason as you know, for advancing money for your types was your urgent wish to prepare some specimens for the Centennial. That opportunity was lost notwithstanding my having put myself to inconvenience to enable you to make use of it. I can have nothing to do with your printing operations. Nor do I hold myself responsible for further claims on account of types. Mr. Pickert's arrangement was to charge \$1.00 per matrix-which was to include the cutting of the necessary punches, because two or more matrices could be made from single punches. You should not pay for punches as well as matrices! I explained in a letter a few days ago the terms on which I could advance you a moderate amount of money and today I send you a bank draft for \$200.00 gold.

As soon as I can I propose to send you more to assist you in taking out patents. But interest on these sums must be paid in one or other of the forms I mentioned. Therefore be careful and don't burden yourself with a responsibility you cannot sustain. With reference to the Centennial types, your outlay should be profitable if you manage properly. I have no objection to consider the sums I paid as advanced to you on the same terms as the sum sent today. Then the printing material is all your own, to be used for your profit. Your account then stands at present: 2 1876 gold, \$84.35, \$200.50 in 1877, making a total on January 26, 77 of \$284.85. Besides this there is the account of books. You were to use "The principles of V. S." as a text book and therefore I sent you the residue of the edition charging about one third of the cost. I have not heard that you have made any use of this consignment. The Burbank "agreement" is another unfinished piece of business. If it was necessary, it should not have been neglected; if unnecessary it should not have been undertaken. We are glad to hear of improving prospects for your telephone. Get it off your

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hands as soon as you can, that you may get out of the normal muddle of your business matters. Lillie is better but your Aunt is laid up. All are well here. Love from all to self and Mabel.

Your affectionate father, Alex. Melville Bell.